

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
P. O. Box 339  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

March 15, 2015

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: The Honorable Dee Morikawa, Chair  
House Committee on Human Services

FROM: Rachael Wong, DrPH, Director

SUBJECT: **S.B. 64 SD3 – RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES**

Hearing: Tuesday, March 17, 2015; 9:30 a.m.  
Conference Room 329, State Capitol

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of S.B. 64 SD3 is to make appropriations for positions and the continued implementation of the Preschool Open Doors program and for subsidies for the program.

**DEPARTMENT'S POSITION:** The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports this bill provided that its passage cannot replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive Budget. The DHS offers the following comments.

Act 169, Session Laws of Hawaii (SLH) 2013, established the existing child care assistance program, called Preschool Open Doors (POD), as the statewide school readiness program. Act 169 authorized the DHS to administer the program and is codified as section 346-181, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS). The POD program currently serves low to moderate income families whose children will be eligible for kindergarten in the following school year.

The DHS expanded the POD program this state fiscal year (SFY) 2015 with funds appropriated by Act 169, SLH 2013. The additional appropriation allowed the DHS to provide

subsidies to approximately 1,300 children to attend licensed preschools to support the children's readiness for kindergarten entry in August 2015. Until SFY 2014, the POD program served 315-320 children utilizing \$1.6 million in the base budget.

Applications are currently being accepted for POD services that will start July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016. The Executive Budget for the SFY 2016-2017 biennium requests only the \$1.6 million in the annual DHS budget, which will cover approximately 242 children each year of the biennium under the revised family co-payment structure of the POD program. The co-payment structure is set forth in Hawaii Administrative Rules, Chapter 17-799; these rules were implemented in July 2014.

Consequently, DHS estimates that approximately 1,050 children will not be served by the POD program after the close of SFY 2015 if the POD expansion funds of \$6,000,000 are not provided under S.B. 64 SD3. The DHS would also require \$440,000 for administrative costs to continue to implement the expansion of POD services for three positions and to contract POD services.

If the Committee decides to pass or amend S.B. 64 SD 3, the effective date of the bill should be amended to July 1, 2015 to facilitate the POD application and enrollment process for the coming SFY.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this bill.

Representative Morikawa, Chair  
Representative Kobayashi, Vice Chair  
Members of the House of Representatives Committee on Human Services

Re: Testimony in Support of SB 64 SD3 requesting restoration of \$6 million for the proposed biennium budget-- Hearing March 17, 2015 at 9:30 am, Room 329

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Dear Chair Morikawa, Vice Chair Kobayashi, Members of the House of Representatives Committee on Human Services.:

My name is Robert G. Peters and I currently serve as the chair of the State Early Learning Advisory Board (ELAB) composed of 19 public and private members representing state departments, the early learning community, philanthropy, and the State university system (see attached list). On behalf of the members of the ELAB, I urge you to support SB 64 SD3 to restore \$6 million for the Pre-school Open Doors (POD) program operated by the Hawaii Department of Human Services. Restoration of the funding at the current year's level is the goal; no expansion of funding is proposed. This program has been in existence since 1990 and has provided a valuable lifeline for hundreds of families every year throughout the state.

POD provides critical subsidies for income-eligible families sending their children to a licensed preschool during the school year prior to kindergarten entry. Given that we know that child care is generally the second largest expense in family budgets after rent and mortgage (PATCH), these subsidies broaden access and opportunity to families in need. POD allows low-income children and families in our Islands to afford childcare so that parents can work or pursue higher education. At present, nearly half of the children served are from single-parent households.

The goal of POD is to promote school readiness for children, and the program focuses on meeting the needs of the child. During the current year, almost 1300 children are being served by the program. If the \$6 million is not restored for the 2015-16 year to operate POD, over 1,000 children will be denied the chance to be school-ready when entering kindergarten. This will be most seriously felt among the underserved and at-risk children of our State. And, the need for this critical safety net program is clear given the 54% increase in POD applications this past year and to provide an option for late-born children ineligible for Kindergarten.

We appreciate that you are all well-aware of the school readiness advantage of those who benefit from POD and, therefore, urge you vote "yes" on SB 64 SD3 to include the \$6 million for Preschool Open Doors. Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony.

Sincerely,  
Robert G. Peters, EdD  
Early Learning Advisory Board, Chair

Early Learning Advisory Board Members Represent the following:

Department of Human Services

Hawaii Council of Mayors, Maui Representative

Head Start Provider

Philanthropic Organization (Samuel N. & Mary Castle Foundation)

Center-Based Programs

Hawaii Early Intervention Coordinating Council

Department of Health

Parent Representative

Head Start Collaboration

University of Hawaii System

Department of Education

Kamehameha Schools

Family Child Interaction Learning

Home-Visiting Program Provider

Hawaii Association of Independent Schools

Hawaiian Language Medium Early Learning

Hawaii Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics

Hawaii Council of Mayors, Kauai Representative

Family Child Care Program

**March 13, 2015**

**Dear Chair Morikawa and Members of the House Human Services Committee**

**I am writing to ask you to do everything possible to restore critically needed funding of \$6 million to the essential Preschool Open Doors Program.** Hundreds of low to middle income Maui County families of 4 year old children are counting on this aid to help them afford safe and dependable child care for their children while they are at work or school or job training. Without it they are at risk of job loss, homelessness and other very bad consequences. Please show Hawaii's families of young children that you do care and understand their challenges by making sure the program is fully funded for 2015-17 and beyond.

In my work as Project Specialist at the Maui County Early Childhood Resource Center over the past 8 years I have personally assisted hundreds of families to access financial aid for child care from the Preschool Open Doors Program. In 2014-15 in particular the help from POD has enabled parents of children affected by the change in Kindergarten entry to work and attend college classes because they have affordable, safe and dependable child care. Without this program, many parents would have to quit their jobs because they can no longer afford the cost of tuition. These families cannot rely on Child Care Connection to meet their needs if POD is not funded in 2015-17 because of Child Care Connection's outdated income guidelines and benefits structure. The CCC benefits are so much lower than POD provides that most low to middle income families don't qualify for enough to make the cost of child care remotely affordable. I have already personally referred approximately 100 families from Maui County to submit applications for POD just this month and many more agencies and child care providers have done the same. The hundreds of families we serve will be crushed to learn that this lifeline may be yanked from their grasp.

I believe it's time for a reality check, there is no way the DOE is going to be able to ramp up and provide preschool for all the late born 4 year olds from low-income families by this August. And even if it was possible, it would cost a lot more than \$6 million to do it. So the bottom line is that unless POD is restored, thousands of children from low to middle income families across the state are not going to be able to go to preschool. It puts parents of these children at risk of losing their jobs. When families lose aid for child care it sets off a cascade of harmful side effects including job loss, homelessness, debt, adverse health effects and more. It's high time that government realizes that affordable child care is a jobs issue, an economic stimulus issue, a prevention of homelessness and child care abuse and neglect issue.

I believe you do understand their struggles and will do the right thing for Hawaii's families and restore POD funding.

Sincerely,

Melanie Padgett

Maui County Early Childhood Resource Center Project Specialist

242-1608

MCECRC/MFSS 1844 Wili Pa Loop Wailuku HI 96793

**kobayashi2-Lynda**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 14, 2015 2:48 PM  
**To:** HUS testimony  
**Cc:** tjdavies@juno.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB64 on Mar 17, 2015 09:30AM

**Categories:** Orange Category

**SB64**

Submitted on: 3/14/2015

Testimony for HUS on Mar 17, 2015 09:30AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
T.J. Davies	Kokua Council & AARP 60	Support	No

Comments: STRONGLY SUPPORT SB 64. Mahalo & Aloha

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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841 Bishop St., Suite 301  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813



Telephone: 808 926-1530  
Contact@HEECoalition.org

House Committee on Human Services  
Representative Dee Morikawa, Chair  
Representative Bert Kobayashi, Vice Chair

March 17, 2015

Dear Chair Morikawa, Vice Chair Kobayashi, and Committee Members:

This testimony is in support for SB64 SD3, relating the Preschool Open Doors program.

The Hui for Excellence in Education (HE'E) is a diverse coalition of over 40 parent and community organizations dedicated to improving student achievement by increasing family and community engagement and partnerships in our schools. Our member list is attached.

We are in support of SB64 SD3, which makes appropriations for positions and the continued implementation of the preschool open doors program and for subsidies for the program. Having a strong foundation in school readiness not only gives children the advantage to transitioning to the K-12 system, but also can have lasting effects to positive outcomes over the span of a child's lifetime. In 2013, HE'E supported legislation to create Preschool Open Doors, the statewide school readiness program. The Coalition has particularly been concerned about the late-born four year olds, who have not been able to attend public Kindergarten from the 2014-2015 year. We like the fact that Preschool Open Doors prioritizes late born four-year olds as well underserved and at-risk children. We encourage the committee to restore funding to this important early learning program.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Our support of this bill represents a 75% consensus or more of our membership.

Sincerely,

Cheri Nakamura  
HE'E Coalition Director

Academy 21  
After-School All-Stars Hawaii  
Alliance for Place Based Learning  
\*Castle Complex Community Council  
\*Castle-Kahuku Principal and CAS  
Center for Civic Education  
Coalition for Children with Special Needs  
\*Faith Action for Community Equity  
Fresh Leadership LLC  
Girl Scouts Hawaii  
\*Good Beginnings Alliance  
Harold K.L. Castle Foundation  
\*Hawaii Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice  
Hawai'i Athletic League of Scholars  
\*Hawai'i Charter School Network  
\*Hawai'i Nutrition and Physical Activity Coalition  
\*Hawaii State PTSA  
Hawai'i State Student Council  
Hawai'i State Teachers Association  
Hawai'i P-20  
Hawai'i 3Rs  
Head Start Collaboration Office  
It's All About Kids  
\*INPEACE  
Joint Venture Education Forum  
Junior Achievement of Hawaii  
\*Kaho'omiki  
Kamehameha Schools  
Kanu Hawai'i  
\*Kaua'i Ho'okele Council  
Keiki to Career Kaua'i  
Kupu A'e  
\*Leaders for the Next Generation  
Learning First  
McREL's Pacific Center for Changing the Odds  
Our Public School  
\*Pacific Resources for Education and Learning  
\*Parents and Children Together  
\*Parents for Public Schools Hawai'i

Punahou School PUEO Program  
Teach for America  
The Learning Coalition  
US PACOM  
University of Hawai'i College of Education  
YMCA of Honolulu  
*Voting Members (\*) Voting member organizations vote on action items while individual and non-voting participants may collaborate on all efforts within the coalition.*





PROTECTING HAWAII'S OHANA, CHILDREN, UNDER SERVED, ELDERLY AND DISABLED

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TO: Representative Dee Morikawa, Chair  
Representative Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair  
Members, House Committee on Human Services

FROM: Scott Morishige, MSW  
Executive Director, PHOCUSED

HEARING: **Tuesday, March 17, 2015 at 9:30 a.m. in Conf. Rm. 329**

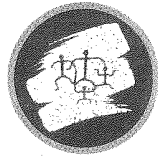
**Testimony in Support for SB64 SD3, Relating to Human Services**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **strong support** for SB64 SD3, which would make appropriations for the continued implementation of the preschool open doors program. PHOCUSED is a nonprofit membership and advocacy organization that works together with community stakeholders to impact program and policy change for the most vulnerable in our community, including low-income families with young children in the home.

Hawaii has the 5<sup>th</sup> highest poverty rate in the nation according to the U.S. Census Bureau's supplemental poverty measure. As a result, many Hawaii families struggle to afford basic living costs, including housing and child care. According to PATCH, child care is generally the **second highest** cost that Hawaii families pay after rent or mortgage. The Preschool Open Doors program provides much needed subsidies for child care at a licensed facility for 1,284 low-income children across Hawaii in FY 2014-2015.

Without the appropriation provided by this bill, the Preschool Open Doors program may be unable to continue operations for future years. The program is critical because it prioritizes underserved and at-risk children, and promotes school readiness in a state where only 14.5% of children statewide indicate readiness for Kindergarten. Without the support of Preschool Open Doors, children from low-income families in Hawaii will be less likely to have the strong start to their education that is needed to provide the bridge to a successful college experience/career that will change their family's financial / social tree for generations to come.

Once again, PHOCUSED strongly supports SB64 SD3, and urges you to pass this bill out of committee. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact PHOCUSED at 521-7462 or by e-mail at [admin@phocused-hawaii.org](mailto:admin@phocused-hawaii.org).



PARENTS AND  
CHILDREN TOGETHER  
A FAMILY SERVICE AGENCY

**TO:** Representative Dee Morikawa, Chair  
Representative Bertrand Kobayashi, Co-Chair  
House Committee on Human Services

**FROM:** Ryan Kusumoto  
President & CEO  
Parents And Children Together

**RE:** **In strong support of SB64 SD3**

**DATE:** March 16, 2015

My name is Ryan Kusumoto. I am the President & CEO of Parents And Children Together and have been an advocate for early childhood education for many years.

I **strongly urge you to support SB64 SD3** to restore \$6 million in biennial funding for the Preschool Open Doors program. This program is operated by the Department of Human Services and serves 1,287 4 and 5 year olds statewide. Nearly half of the children served in this program come from single-parent households. Without your support, \$6 million for this critical safety net program will end on June 30, 2015, which means thousands of children will not be prepared for kindergarten. Having Preschool Open Doors keep its doors open is critical to Hawaii's most vulnerable children and families.

The Preschool Open Doors program has helped to level the educational playing field for children from poor families. The program has helped to ensure they arrive at kindergarten prepared with basic school readiness skills learned while in preschool. Their school readiness skills enable the entire class to move forward together, learning with and from each other.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in **strong support of SB64 SD3**.

March 17, 2015

TO: Rep. Dee Morikawa, Chair  
Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Human Services

From: Deborah Zysman, Executive Director  
Good Beginnings Alliance

Re: **Support for SB 64, SD3: Relating to Human Services (Preschool Open Doors)**  
Hearing March 17, 2015 at 9:30 AM, Conference Room 329

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**Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 64 SD3, and to restore \$6 million in funding to the for the Preschool Open Doors Program Fiscal Year 2015-16 and Fiscal Year 2016-17.**

Good Beginnings Alliance is Hawaii's leading independent, policy and advocacy non-profit organization on children's health, education and safety. We build a united voice to educate and advocate for Hawaii's children.

Since it was established in 1990, Preschool Open Doors (POD) allows low-income children and families in Hawai'i to afford childcare so parents can go to work or pursue higher education. **Last year, 2,208 families applied for this program. POD operated by Department of Human Services currently serves 1,287 statewide. Nearly half of the children served in this program come from single-parent households.**

**POD helps qualifying families pay subsidized tuition at a DHS-licensed group childcare facility, such as a preschool.** The program prioritizes underserved and at-risk children, for the year prior to kindergarten to promote school readiness. Without your support, \$6 million in funding for this critical safety net program will end on June 30, 2015, which means thousands of children will not be prepared to start kindergarten, including the children who will be nearly six years old due to the kindergarten entry age change.

**President Obama has focused efforts to help all working families with young children afford childcare.** His administration believes that ensuring that children have access to high quality affordable early childhood programs can help children prepare for school and succeed later in life while strengthening their parents' ability to go to work, advance their careers and increase their earning potential. Investments in high-quality early education generate economic returns of over \$8 for every \$1 spent.

**President Obama is proposing an expansion of access to childcare assistance to assure that all eligible families (those with incomes below 200 percent of poverty – approximately \$40,000 for a family of three with children age three and under) have access to a subsidy to pay for quality childcare so they can work or attend school or job training. To qualify for this funding, states will be asked to develop sound plans to build the supply of quality care for infants and toddlers and ensure the subsidies they provide will cover the cost of quality care.**

Restoring the FY 2014-15 level funding to the biennium budget is a step in this direction and will enable nearly 1,300 children throughout the state gain access to the Preschool Open Doors Program (POD). POD also helps to provide subsidies for part-time care for children enrolled in Head Start, a federally funded program that provides quality services to qualifying preschoolers and their families which runs half-days.

According to the Hawaii State School Readiness Assessment for 2012-13, more than 40 percent of children entering kindergarten had not attended a pre-kindergarten program and more than 90 percent of students in Department of Education (DOE) classrooms did not meet benchmarks in all dimensions of school readiness. This trend is alarming, but it can be reversed.

DOE data also shows that one out of three children in Hawaii is not reading at grade level by 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade. This is a key indicator to high school graduation rates and later success outcomes.

**Hawaii ranks second to last out of the most affordable states in the country. Childcare is generally the second largest expense in family budgets after housing costs. The average income of families served by POD is \$33,000 annually. The average preschool cost is \$8,052 in 2012. Since 2013-14, DHS has seen a 54 percent increase in the number of applications for POD subsidies.**

Preparing our young children to be ready to learn and thrive before they reach kindergarten not only helps to improve their lives as individuals, it improves the lives of our communities.

Having Preschool Open Doors keep its doors open is critical to Hawai'i's most vulnerable children and families. Maintaining the annual funding of \$6 million for DHS to keep running this program. Hawai'i's families need this program for our keiki.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge committee members to restore \$6 million in POD subsidies to the State Biennium Budget this session.



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FAMILY PROGRAMS HAWAII

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TO: Rep. Dee Morikawa, Chair  
Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair  
Committee on Human Services

HEARING: Tuesday, March 17, 2015  
9:30 am  
Conference Room 329

FROM: Judith Wilhoite  
Family Advocate  
It Takes An `Ohana

RE: SB 64 Relating to Human Services

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. I am the Family Advocate for Family Program Hawaii's It Takes An `Ohana (ITAO) program and a resource caregiver, formerly referred to as foster parent. I strongly support SB 64.

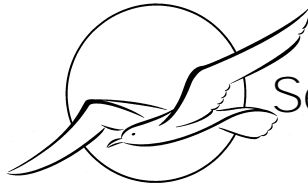
I am writing today to ask you to restore funding for the Pre-school Open Doors (POD) program. POD has provided a hand up to children who otherwise would not have the opportunity to attend preschool, including many foster children. This is important, for research has consistently found a high need for early intervention and early childhood education services among young children in foster care as a result of their developmental, emotional and behavioral problems. One study that analyzed data for foster children ages two to 24 months old found that nearly six in ten were at high risk for neurological or cognitive developmental impairments (Vandivere, et al., 2003). Yet, several studies indicate that many young children do not receive the early intervention or early childhood education services they need to address these problems. If our foster keiki don't have POD, many will not be able to have the all of the benefits a good preschool experience provides.

That said, early childhood education is important for all children. It has been shown to:

- Improve school performance
- Raise math and language abilities
- Sharpen thinking/attention skills
- Reduce special education placement
- Lowers school dropout rates

It is very important for all of us to come together to make certain that all of Hawaii's Keiki have the opportunity for school success. I can't think of any better place to put our resources, can you?

Thank you for this opportunity to voice strong support for SB 64.



# Seagull Schools

Main Office: 1300 Kailua Road, Kailua, Hawaii 96734  
Tel: (808) 261-8534 · Fax: (808) 261-7052 · [www.seagullschools.com](http://www.seagullschools.com)  
Email: [admin@seagullschools.com](mailto:admin@seagullschools.com)

Representative Dee Morikawa, Chair  
Representative Bertrand Kobayashi  
Members of the Senate Committee on Human Services and Housing

Re: Testimony in Support of S.B.64.SD3

Dear Legislators:

As the director of Seagull Schools, I have been active in advocating for early education for the past 40 years and recently served as a board member on the State's early learning council.

The value of early education as a positive factor in determining a child's potential development is well recognized. There are good reasons why almost all states and the federal government are making significant progress toward developing quality programs for children of low to moderate income families.

The exception is Hawaii which actually seems to be going backwards in their support of early education. Recent events now probably have Hawaii at the bottom of the list that rates states in terms of their support. Last year the attorney general single handedly derailed the plans that had been evolving for years to bring Hawaii up to par with other states by building a public private partnership. And now the state is posed to eliminate the Preschool Open Doors (POD) program which probably gives Hawaii the best return on any of its educational investments. Last year approximately 1,200 children and their families benefitted from this program which significantly boosts school readiness. This supports the childcare needs of low income working families and serves as a screening tool for identifying developmental delays.

I strongly hope that members of this committee will see the value of this program and support the restoration of \$6 million per year and stop the states slide in support of early education.

Sincerely,  
Chuck Larson  
Seagull Schools



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Shannon Alivado	Michael Flannery	Cheryl Soon	Jayne Arasaki
Gordon Bruce	Gary Gill	Maeda Timson	<i>Director of Operations</i>
Kevin Doyle			

## School Locations

Kailua & Administrative Office – 261-8534	Adult Day Center – 674-1160
Kapolei & Food Service – 674-1444	Ko Olina – 671-6999
Ocean Pointe in Ewa – 689-6021	
The Early Education Center, Honolulu – 533-0004	
Mauna Lani, The Big Island of Hawaii – 885-3557	

## kobayashi2-Lynda

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Friday, March 13, 2015 11:22 AM  
**To:** HUS testimony  
**Cc:** cwaialae@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB64 on Mar 17, 2015 09:30AM

### **SB64**

Submitted on: 3/13/2015

Testimony for HUS on Mar 17, 2015 09:30AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Chantrelle Waialae	Individual	Support	No

Comments: PLEASE SUPPORT PRE SCHOOL OPEN DOORS. Supporting this bill supports our economy and working parents. Rather than forcing us to stay at home and go on welfare, this program allows us to work and to be assured that our children are in a safe and educational environment. This program is the only way for me to provide pre school education for my children. Pre schools cost about \$800 a month and as a working single mother, I cannot afford to pay for such costs in addition to rent, food, etc. I need the child care and education that this program provides. We have a new law requiring late borns to wait an entire year before they can start kindergarten so that they can be ready to start kindergarten but where are all of these kids supposed to go? How does it help them to be out of school for another year if we are not providing alternative education for them? My oldest daughter missed the deadline because she is born in August. If it were not for pre school open doors, I don't know where she would be. We should be supporting early education for our keiki, especially since new laws force many keiki to be held back. This should not be an issue. It is so clear how beneficial this program is to our state and its economy. Please support this bill!

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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## kobayashi2-Lynda

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 14, 2015 12:10 PM  
**To:** HUS testimony  
**Cc:** dkupferman@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB64 on Mar 17, 2015 09:30AM

### **SB64**

Submitted on: 3/14/2015

Testimony for HUS on Mar 17, 2015 09:30AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Kupferman	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Please support SB64 SD3 to restore \$6 million/year in biennial funding for the Preschool Open Doors program -- this represents level funding to match the current fiscal year budget. Since it was established in 1990, Preschool Open Doors allows low-income children and families in Hawai'i to afford childcare so parents can go to work or pursue higher education. Last year, 2,208 families applied for POD subsidies. This program operated by Department of Human Services (DHS) currently serves 1,287 4- and 5-year olds statewide. Nearly half of the children served in this program come from single-parent households. Without your support, \$6 million for this critical safety net program will end on June 30, 2015, which means thousands of children will not be prepared for Kindergarten when they start, including the children who will be almost six years old due to the Kindergarten entry age change. Having Preschool Open Doors keep its doors open is critical to Hawai'i's most vulnerable children and families. Please maintain the annual funding of \$6 million for DHS to keep running this program! Hawai'i's families need this program for our keiki.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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**kobayashi2-Lynda**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Friday, March 13, 2015 4:07 PM  
**To:** HUS testimony  
**Cc:** tuerxun@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB64 on Mar 17, 2015 09:30AM

**Categories:** Orange Category

**SB64**

Submitted on: 3/13/2015

Testimony for HUS on Mar 17, 2015 09:30AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tuerxun Halidan	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Don't close the doors on our keiki! Please restore \$6 million in the state's budget for Preschool Open Doors subsidies so our keiki can access childcare and so families can get to work or school.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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SB64, SD3  
House Committee on Human Services  
Tuesday, March 17, 2015 at 9:30 am

In Support of SB 64, SD3

Dear Chair Morikawa, Vice Chair Kobayashi and members of the Committee,

Please support Preschool Open Doors by restoring the \$6 million in funding. For too many of Hawaii's families, early childhood education is unaffordable and out of reach. This program is needed to support our keiki who deserve a healthy start in life. Besides, research clearly shows, the highest rates of return on investing in early childhood education.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

Best regards,  
Debbie Millikan

**kobayashi2-Lynda**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 15, 2015 2:22 PM  
**To:** HUS testimony  
**Cc:** amybrinker@mac.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SB64 on Mar 17, 2015 09:30AM\*

**SB64**

Submitted on: 3/15/2015

Testimony for HUS on Mar 17, 2015 09:30AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Amy Brinker	Individual	Support	No

**Comments:**

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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## kobayashi2-Lynda

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 15, 2015 10:31 AM  
**To:** HUS testimony  
**Cc:** cli@cc.hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB64 on Mar 17, 2015 09:30AM

### **SB64**

Submitted on: 3/15/2015

Testimony for HUS on Mar 17, 2015 09:30AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Chunshun Li	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments: Don't close the doors on our keiki! Please restore \$6 million in the state's budget for Preschool Open Doors subsidies so our keiki can access childcare and so families can get to work or school."

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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Date: March 16, 2015

To: The Honorable Dee Morikawa, Chair  
The Honorable Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair  
Members, House Committee on Human Services

Re: Strong Support for SB 64, Preschool Open Doors (POD)

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in strong support of SB 64. I strongly support appropriations for positions and the continued implementation of the preschool open doors program and for subsidies for the program.

As the Maui County Early Childhood Resource Coordinator for the past 7 years, I have witnessed the challenges that families especially on the Neighbor Islands face when putting their child into child care and preschool. This year over 200 low to middle income earning families have consistently accessed the POD program. Funding for the program is essential as without it access to childcare and preschool for the 4 year olds is very limited because it is simply not affordable. Families need the support to continue working and or go to school, so they can be contributing members of our society.

High quality early childhood experiences during the window of birth to 5 have proven to reduce placement in special education, reduce grade retention, lessen the need for remedial services, lessen behavioral problems, decrease teen pregnancy rates, reduce violent crimes, juvenile delinquency and incarceration, thus resulting in a smart return on investment for society with a rate of return of \$7.00 to \$10.00 for each dollar invested. Through supporting this effort now you truly making a positive impact on the human services issues that you folks are tasked to address.

Children from all socioeconomic backgrounds, who experience and or participate in early childhood programs, are better equipped to thrive and succeed in school and life, as early childhood programs provide a base of support necessary for them to recognize their capabilities and increase the odds of long term employment. You have the ability to provide the means for low to moderate income families to have access to these programs and set the foundation for their children achieve success and create a dynamic future workforce.

Please help Hawaii's families and especially the neighbor island families with young children have access to child care/ preschool by giving them access to the resources that make it affordable. It is essential to make the appropriation of at least 6 million dollars and continue the implementation of the POD program.

Mahalo,

Ka'ina Bonacorsi

TO: The Honorable Jill N. Tokuda, Chair Senate Committee on Human Services and Housing  
RE: SB64

From: Liz Brown (parent)

I am in favor of this bill. I work with mothers and children who are in need of this service. I have referred many moms who have used the POD funding. The clients I work with live in poverty and their children would not be able to attend preschool, if they did not have this subsidy.

It is imperative that this bill be passed to help our keiki receive a preschool education. I have seen cases where a child has had to stay home until they started kindergarten, due to lack of funding or a family not qualifying for services. Please do not allow the children of Hawaii to go without an education.

Mahalo,  
Liz Brown  
Concerned parent/outreach worker.

## kobayashi2-Lynda

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, March 16, 2015 10:16 AM  
**To:** HUS testimony  
**Cc:** sunnydays291@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB64 on Mar 17, 2015 09:30AM

### **SB64**

Submitted on: 3/16/2015

Testimony for HUS on Mar 17, 2015 09:30AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
susan gregory	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Don't close POD funding that enables single mothers like myself to work. Please restore current funding levels so our keiki can access quality childcare. Wages in Hawaii are low. Families depend on POD to participate in the workforce and contribute to the community. Don't turn your back on the working poor in Hawaii.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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**SB 64, SD3**

**LATE TESTIMONY**



**LATE**

Gwen K. Dufault  
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa Children's Center  
2600 Campus Road, QLSCC #407  
Honolulu, HI 96822

March 16, 2015

Dear Governor David Ige:

My name is Gwen Dufault and I am a teacher at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa Children's Center. I am writing in to address the critical need to restore \$6 million in the state's budget for Preschool Open Doors subsidies.

I see first-hand just how valuable funding for Preschool Open Doors is for both our student and faculty families. Without this state subsidy, many of our student families would not be able to afford the high quality childcare we provide that is much needed in order for them to be able to continue their education and reach their career goals.

Our preschool and other university preschools that rely on this funding provide access for the non-traditional student to attend schools of higher education. Preschool Open Doors subsidies provide access to preschool, which in turn, gives back to our state's economy by increasing the pool of employable individuals.

Preschool also serves our state's working force. Without care, those in the workforce may not be able to afford childcare, which is what enables them to go to work everyday.

Don't close the doors on our keiki! Please restore \$6 million in the state's budget for Preschool Open Doors subsidies so our keiki can access childcare and so families can get to work or school. Eliminating it would create a domino effect that would be detrimental to our state's economy and our people's overall well-being.

Sincerely,

Gwen Dufault  
Education Specialist  
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa Children's Center

# LATE

Chair Dee Morikawa  
March 16, 2015

**RE: SB 64, SD3**

Relating to Human Services

Makes appropriations for positions and the continued implementation of the preschool open doors program and for subsidies for the program.

Chair Morikawa, Vice Chair Kobayashi and Members of the House Committee for Human Services, my name is Barbara Campbell, volunteer Chair of the Board for the Waikiki Community Center, VP of Retail Property Management & Leasing for Outrigger Enterprises Group and a 29 year resident of Honolulu.

Many of our hotel, restaurant and retail workers in Waikiki are low income and rely on assistance for their children to attend pre-school at Waikiki Community Center and other facilities around our island of Oahu. Without child care and pre-school, these workers would not be able to come to work and earn a living to support their families.

Please support SB64 SD3 to restore \$6 million/year in biennial funding for the Preschool Open Doors program — this represents level funding to match the current fiscal year budget.

- Since it was established in 1990, Preschool Open Doors allows low-income children and families in Hawai'i to afford childcare so parents can go to work or pursue higher education.
- Last year, 2,208 families applied for POD subsidies.
- This program operated by Department of Human Services (DHS) currently serves 1,287 4- and 5-year olds statewide. Nearly half of the children served in this program come from single-parent households.
- Without your support, \$6 million for this critical safety net program will end on June 30, 2015, which means thousands of children will not be prepared for Kindergarten when they start, including the children who will be almost six years old due to the Kindergarten entry age change.
- Having Preschool Open Doors keep its doors open is critical to Hawai'i's most vulnerable children and families.
- Please maintain the annual funding of \$6 million for DHS to keep running this program! Hawai'i's families need this program for our keiki.

Mahalo,  
Barbara Campbell



WAIKIKI  
COMMUNITY  
CENTER

**LATE**

March 16, 2015

To: The Honorable Dee Morikawa, Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Human Services

From: Caroline Hayashi, President

**RE: Waikiki Community Center Support for SB64**

Dear Chair Dee Morikawa and Members of the House Committee on Human Services:

Waikiki Community Center (WCC) is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) agency that has provided services to those who live and work in Waikiki since 1978, including operating a licensed preschool and toddler program targeting children from low-income families. More than 70% of our preschool families are of low to moderate income and more than 20% of them rely on Preschool Open Doors funding for their children to be able to attend preschool.

These families are primarily single-parent headed households, who work full time, some work two jobs or most jobs to make ends meet. Without preschool open doors funding, these families will likely lose their subsidies after June of this year and will be unable to continue sending their children to preschool.

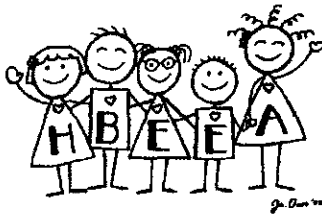
The critical importance of quality early childhood education for school readiness is well documented in numerous research studies. Equally well-documented is the academic achievement gap between children from lower and higher income families and the fact that quality early learning is one of the few interventions that can successfully close this gap. Therefore, access to early education for low-income families is one of the best investments the state can continue to make as it has been demonstrated that children who start kindergarten insufficiently prepared most often fall even further each subsequent year, when the issue becomes much more costly and challenging to address.

In addition to the benefit of giving every child the opportunity to enter kindergarten ready to learn, POD allows many single-headed households to continue to be fully employed rather than having to be supported by state funds due to a lack of childcare. Almost all of our POD families are single-parent households, as are more than half of POD families statewide.

We ask that you please support SB64 SD3 to restore \$6 million per year biennial funding for the Preschool Open Doors program, which represents a critical lifeline to many of our families and thousands of others around the state. Without this funding, so many of our families will be unable to continue sending their children to preschool. While more than 70% of our families are low-income, more than 95% of them meet state developmental standards and 100% of our 4 to 5 year olds were successfully prepared for kindergarten this past year.

POD funding allows our children the opportunity to enter kindergarten ready to learn and potentially saves the state even more than this initial investment by preventing the need for remediation within the Hawaii Department of Education system and keeping families gainfully employed. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

**LATE**



**HAWAII BAPTIST EARLY EDUCATION ASSOCIATION**  
2042 VANCOUVER DRIVE HONOLULU, HI 96822

**To the Members of the Committee on Human Services,**

I ask for your support in passing SB64 SD3 to be able to restore funding to the Preschool Open Doors program. This represents level funding to match the current fiscal year budget.

HBEEA, which services 18 preschools on 4 islands, is able to serve many more children through the Preschool Open Doors Program. This program allows parents a choice in choosing a program that will best fit their needs to allow them to work or pursue schooling that they might otherwise not have the opportunity to afford.

Many of our smaller schools have close to 40 or 50% of their children receiving money from the Open Doors Program. Should the Open Doors Program funding not be restored, I fear that many of our smaller schools would have to lay off staff and ultimately possibly have to close their doors.

In closing, I ask for your support in the passage of SB64 SD3 to be able to restore funding to the Preschool Open Doors so programs can continue to service the communities they have chosen to serve.

Thank you,

Rebecca McGuire  
HBEEA



Representative Dee Morikawa, Chair  
Representative Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Human Services

From: Douglas Mersberg, Executive Director

Re: Testimony in Support of SB 64, SD3, Relating to Human Services

**Hearing**

Date: March 17, 2015

Time: 9:30 AM

Place: Conference Room 329  
State Capitol

Wai'anae Coast Early Childhood Services has been providing preschool services on the Wai'anae Coast since 1973. 94% of our families receive some form of tuition subsidy in order to afford our services, including from the Preschool Open Doors program.

Wai'anae coast elementary school principals maintain that many of the children that enter their kindergarten classrooms are two years behind in their school readiness skills. Their schools' test scores confirm this assertion. Longitudinal studies show that quality preschool services have a positive impact on school success for low-income children. There are hundreds of children in our community who are unable to access preschool services.

Our organization is in full support of maintaining \$6 million in childcare subsidies to the Preschool Open Doors program, which is operated by the Dept. of Human Services. This is based upon our capacity to serve more children, the school readiness needs of children in our community, and the benefits that programs like ours can provide.

# KEEP THE DOORS OPEN FOR OUR KEIKI!

If you feel that Preschool Open Doors funding is important to our keiki, please take a moment to fill out the form below. Mahalo for ensuring a brighter future for Hawai'i's keiki!



First Name <i>Trinidad</i>	Last Name <i>Rita</i>
Home Address: <i>92-514 Akaula St</i>	
City: <i>Kapolei</i>	Zip Code: <i>96707</i>
Phone: <i>221-2954</i>	E-mail: <i>trini_rita@yahoo.com</i>

Preschool Open Doors funding is important to me because.....

*It opens the doors for many children who can't afford to attend pre school because parents can't afford the tuition. Many children are left with grandparents who baby sit. Preschool is very important for children to prepare themselves for kindergarten and don't feel like they're left behind in their education.*



If Preschool Open Doors loses funding, it will negatively impact my family because...

*Parents will need to look for other means of taking care of their children. They might even have to stop working. That will impact any family economically. ~~Also~~ Without children, staff will need to be cut back and that too will affect the economy. It's going to be a domino effect.*

Please kokua and submit your testimony one of the following ways:

- Return this form to your teacher or school, OR
- E-mail your testimony to [info@goodbeginnings.org](mailto:info@goodbeginnings.org)

**\*Mahalo for your KOKUA\***

# KEEP THE DOORS OPEN FOR OUR KEIKI!

If you feel that Preschool Open Doors funding is important to our keiki, please take a moment to fill out the form below. Mahalo for ensuring a brighter future for Hawai'i's keiki!



First Name Leitisha	Last Name Pesquira
Home Address: 85-125 #A Ala Akau Street	
City: Wai'anae	Zip Code: 96792
Phone: (808) 386-4906	E-mail: leitishapesquira @gmail.com

<i>Preschool Open Doors funding is important to me because.....</i>
It gives the low income families the opportunity to give their children a chance to attend pre school & prepare them for kindergarten. Our kids need as much education as they can get. They are the future. POD funding have blessed many families over the years & it will be a great loss if POD funding was to get cancelled. It will not only affect children's education but will also affect a decrease in employment as a teacher, teachers aide, office staff, ect.



<i>If Preschool Open Doors loses funding, it will negatively impact my family because...</i>
it will cause families to lose their jobs because they can't afford the tuition and/or because their is not enough children attending the preschool for the school to be able to pay their employees. At this point in time, the economy is so high most low income families barely make ends meet.

<p>Please kokua and submit your testimony one of the following ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Return this form to your teacher or school, OR</li> <li>• E-mail your testimony to <a href="mailto:info@goodbeginnings.org">info@goodbeginnings.org</a></li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;">*Mahalo for your KOKUA *</p>
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# KEEP THE DOORS OPEN FOR OUR KEIKI!

If you feel that Preschool Open Doors funding is important to our keiki, please take a moment to fill out the form below. Mahalo for ensuring a brighter future for Hawai'i's keiki!



First Name <i>KVNA</i>	Last Name <i>Kalili</i>
Home Address: <i>84-1061 Noholo Rd.</i>	
City: <i>Wahanae</i>	Zip Code: <i>96792</i>
Phone: <i>808-9456</i>	E-mail: <i>KVNAWCEC @ yahoo.com</i>

Preschool Open Doors funding is important to me because..... *By having preschool open doors it helps the working parents send their keiki to preschool which gets them ready to learn social-emotional, physical, language, self-help skills, etc... This will also ensure a smooth transition to elementary as they get older. ~~The~~ Our parents depends on open doors and without the help our families will struggle trying to send their kids to preschool.*

If Preschool Open Doors loses funding, it will negatively impact my family because... <i>We will lose our job. And in some cases families will have to have more than one job to send their keiki to school.</i>

Please kokua and submit your testimony one of the following ways:

- Return this form to your teacher or school, OR
- E-mail your testimony to [info@goodbeginnings.org](mailto:info@goodbeginnings.org)

\*Mahalo for your KOKUA\*





# KEEP THE DOORS OPEN FOR OUR KEIKI!

If you feel that Preschool Open Doors funding is important to our keiki, please take a moment to fill out the form below. Mahalo for ensuring a brighter future for Hawai'i's keiki!



First Name Percell	Last Name Morgan
Home Address: 84-1061 Noholio Rd.	
City: Wai'anae	Zip Code: 96792
Phone: 695-9656	E-mail: @

Preschool Open Doors funding is important to me because.....
Majority of our Keikis depend on help from open doors. Its important to me because every child should be able to attend preschool it helps them to learn



If Preschool Open Doors loses funding, it will negatively impact my family because...
most families depend on open doors if they lose funding alot of Keikis wont be able to attend preschool because most families cant afford.

Please kokua and submit your testimony one of the following ways:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Return this form to your teacher or school, OR</li><li>• E-mail your testimony to <a href="mailto:info@goodbeginnings.org">info@goodbeginnings.org</a></li></ul>
*Mahalo for your KOKUA*



# KEEP THE DOORS OPEN FOR OUR KEIKI!

If you feel that Preschool Open Doors funding is important to our keiki, please take a moment to fill out the form below. Mahalo for ensuring a brighter future for Hawai'i's keiki!



First Name <u>Charmaine</u>	Last Name <u>TOKEN TINO</u>
Home Address: <u>84-1061 Noholua Road</u>	
City: <u>Kalaheo HI</u>	Zip Code: <u>96742</u>
Phone: <u>808-9656</u>	E-mail: _____ @ _____

Preschool Open Doors funding is important to me because.....
<u>It gives family members a good opportunity to send their child(ren) to school so they can be prep and ready for a great transition to regular school and teach them things. It also can help families who really needs the help in putting their child into school.</u>



If Preschool Open Doors loses funding, it will negatively impact my family because...
<u>I feel every child needs to learn from others, other than their own family members. Preschool helps the child get to know others and <del>and</del> their surrounding. Besides EDUCATION is very important for young kids. They also can lose their jobs.</u>

Please kokua and submit your testimony one of the following ways:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Return this form to your teacher or school, OR</li> <li>• E-mail your testimony to <a href="mailto:info@goodbeginnings.org">info@goodbeginnings.org</a></li> </ul>
<u>*Mahalo for your KOKUA*</u>

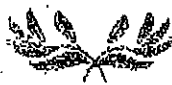
# KEEP THE DOORS OPEN FOR OUR KEIKI!

If you feel that Preschool Open Doors funding is important to our keiki, please take a moment to fill out the form below. Mahalo for ensuring a brighter future for Hawai'i keiki!



First Name: Madeline	Last Name: Gates
Home Address: 85-1257 Kamehilo St	
City: Wahiawa	Zip Code: 96792
Phone: 354-6142	E-mail: mgates07@gmail.com

Preschool Open Doors funding is important to me because...
it will help out a lot because there is a lot of families out there that is having a hard time sending their child to school because of funds. This will really help especially if you are a single parent raising more than one child.



If Preschool Open Doors loses funding, it will negatively impact my family because...
I not going to be able to send them school and get help from some people depend on open doors for funding and was one of them before time are hard for some people out there.

Please kokua and submit your testimony one of the following ways:
• Return this form to your teacher or school; OR
• E-mail your testimony to <a href="mailto:info@goodbeginnings.org">info@goodbeginnings.org</a>
*Mahalo for your KOKUA*

# KEEP THE DOORS OPEN FOR OUR KEIKI!

If you feel that Preschool Open Doors funding is important to our keiki, please take a moment to fill out the form below. Mahalo for ensuring a brighter future for Hawai'i's keiki!



First Name: <u>Jamie</u>	Last Name: <u>Rieth</u>
Home Address: <u>87-169 Hila St</u>	
City: <u>Waiānae</u>	Zip Code: <u>96792</u>
Phone: _____	E-mail: <u>jamie@cc.96792@yahoo.com</u>

Preschool Open Doors funding is important to me because.....
<u>It makes it possible for children to attend preschool</u>
<u>by assisting families with tuition cost. preschool can</u>
<u>be very expensive and sometimes impossible to</u>
<u>pay.</u>



If Preschool Open Doors loses funding, it will negatively impact my family
<u>because... my nephews may not be able to attend</u>
<u>preschool and I may not have a job if</u>
<u>we lose enrollment due to funding being</u>
<u>cut.</u>

Please kokua and submit your testimony one of the following ways:
• Return this form to your teacher or school, OR
• E-mail your testimony to <u>info@goodbeginnings.org</u>
<b>*Mahalo for your KOKUA*</b>

**KEEP THE  
DOORS OPEN  
FOR OUR  
KEIKI!**



First Name: <u>Sujit</u>	Last Name: <u>Cho</u>
Home Address: <u>1517 Makiki St. #1104</u>	
City: <u>Honolulu</u>	Zip Code: <u>96822</u>
Phone: <u>428-9007</u>	E-mail:

Preschool Open Doors is important to me because...

I can go school and that makes me to get better job. That's help my family to have better life.

If Preschool Open Doors loses it's funding, it will negatively impact my family because...

I can't go back to work and I can't offer better education program to my son.

Signed: Sujit Date: 3/6/15

Please submit your testimony one of the following ways:

- Return this form to your teacher or school or
- E-mail your testimony to: [info@goodbeginnings.org](mailto:info@goodbeginnings.org)

\* Mahalo for your kokua! \*

Kcaa

**KEEP THE  
DOORS OPEN  
FOR OUR  
KEIKI!**



First Name: <u>Jay</u>	Last Name: <u>Cho</u>
Home Address: <u>1517 Makiki St. #1104</u>	
City: <u>Honolulu</u>	Zip Code: <u>96822</u>
Phone: <u>398-6476</u>	E-mail:

Preschool Open Doors is important to me because...

my son can play and study together with friends. He learn social activities and relationship with other people.

If Preschool Open Doors loses it's funding, it will negatively impact my family because... my wife can't make money and she had to take care my son all day long. Then I have to ask the state for help.

Signed: [Signature] Date: 3/6/15

Please submit your testimony one of the following ways:

- Return this form to your teacher or school or
- E-mail your testimony to: [info@goodbeginnings.org](mailto:info@goodbeginnings.org)

\* Mahalo for your kokua! \*

**KEEP THE  
DOORS OPEN  
FOR OUR  
KEIKI!**



First Name:	Last Name:
Yoshiro	Nakamura
Home Address: 1635 Dole St. #202	
City: Honolulu	Zip Code: 96822
Phone: 808-392-5572	E-mail: Yoshiro17@vine.jp

Preschool Open Doors is important to me because...
Our Family income is not that good enough to support 2nd child's tuition.
If Preschool Open Doors loses it's funding, it will negatively impact my family because...
Our second child may not be able to enroll to the school.
Signed: <i>Yoshiro Nakamura</i> Date: 3/4/15

Please submit your testimony one of the following ways:

- Return this form to your teacher or school or
- E-mail your testimony to [info@goodbeginnings.org](mailto:info@goodbeginnings.org)

\* Mahalo for your kokua! \*

**KEEP THE  
DOORS OPEN  
FOR OUR  
KEIKI!**



First Name:	Last Name:
Rika	Nakamura
Home Address: 1635 Dole St. #202	
City: Honolulu	Zip Code: 96822
Phone: 808-383-0783	E-mail: rika0029@hotmail.com

Preschool Open Doors is important to me because...
Our children can have a good opportunity to get English skills, social skills, fine motor skills and so on because of their "BIG SUPPORT" before enrolling kindergarten.
If Preschool Open Doors loses it's funding, it will negatively impact my family because...
We have to think about moving out of Hawaii State to get an educational environment for our 2nd child.
Signed: <i>Rika Nakamura</i> Date: 3/4/15

Please submit your testimony one of the following ways:

- Return this form to your teacher or school or
- E-mail your testimony to [info@goodbeginnings.org](mailto:info@goodbeginnings.org)

\* Mahalo for your kokua! \*

**KEEP THE  
DOORS OPEN  
FOR OUR  
KEIKI!**



First Name:	Last Name:
ELAINE	KIM
Home Address: 727 LUKEPANE AVE #202	
City: HONOLULU	Zip Code: 96816
Phone: 808-348-7630	E-mail: elainelyskim@gmail.com

*Preschool Open Doors is important to me because...*

IT GIVES MY CHILDREN THE CHANCE TO LEARN  
EARLY AND PREPARE THEM FOR KINDERGARTEN.

*If Preschool Open Doors loses it's funding, it will negatively  
impact my family because...*

I WOULD HAVE TO STAY HOME TO WATCH MY  
CHILDREN AS I HAVE NO OTHER FAMILY MEMBERS TO  
WATCH THEM

Signed: *Elaine Kim* Date: 3/4/15

Please submit your testimony one of the following ways:

- Return this form to your teacher or school or
- E-mail your testimony to [info@goodbeginnings.org](mailto:info@goodbeginnings.org)

\* Mahalo for your kokua! \*

**KEEP THE  
DOORS OPEN  
FOR OUR  
KEIKI!**



First Name:	Last Name:
Home Address:	
City:	Zip Code:
Phone:	E-mail:

*Preschool Open Doors is important to me because...*

*If Preschool Open Doors loses it's funding, it will negatively  
impact my family because...*

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please submit your testimony one of the following ways:

- Return this form to your teacher or school or
- E-mail your testimony to [info@goodbeginnings.org](mailto:info@goodbeginnings.org)

\* Mahalo for your kokua! \*

# KEEP THE DOORS OPEN FOR OUR KEIKI!

If you feel that Preschool Open Doors funding is important to our keiki, please take a moment to fill out the form below. Mahalo for ensuring a brighter future for Hawai'i's keiki!



First Name Charice candy <del>torator</del>	Last Name Morales
Home Address: 87149 Gilipake St.	
City: Wai'anane HI.	Zip Code: 96792
Phone: 808 779 9629	E-mail: chariccandybm@aol.com

Preschool Open Doors funding is important to me because..... my son was under special needs because of his speech & since he was eligible for child care at Seagull School, he surely has learned a lot & started speaking better due to the fact that he's been able to play & talk to kids his age. More importantly, he's not only having fun, he's also being taught Alphabets, numbers, shapes, how to behave, & be creative, etc. The PATCH program has also helped with me to go to work & not worry that my mother in law would have to baby sit 2 of my kids because she's ~~at the~~ age where she has hard time walking.

If Preschool Open Doors loses funding, it will negatively impact my family because... I would have a hard time looking for a baby sitter who I can trust at the fact that they will be protected & taught at the same time while i'm at work. If I can't find a trustworthy baby sitter, that would mean that I would not be able to work & provide for my kids. My fiancé & I are living from paycheck to paycheck & without this PATCH program we would have to sacrifice a lot just to get by.

Please kokua and submit your testimony one of the following ways:

- Return this form to your teacher or school, OR
- E-mail your testimony to [info@goodbeginnings.org](mailto:info@goodbeginnings.org)

\*Mahalo for your KOKUA\*



# KEEP THE DOORS OPEN FOR OUR KEIKI!

If you feel that Preschool Open Doors funding is important to our keiki, please take a moment to fill out the form below. Mahalo for ensuring a brighter future for Hawai'i keiki!



First Name	Briana	Last Name	DeCosta
Home Address:	91-201 Puamoa Road Pl.		
City:	Kapolei	Zip Code:	96707
Phone:	(808) 763-4472	E-mail:	briana.decosta@yahoo.com

Preschool Open Doors funding is important to me because.....

It helped me as a parent to give my son the opportunity to learn and acquire an education at a young age, regardless of our financial hardships. "Open Doors" is very important to families with more than one child, single parents, and families who deal with the high costs of living here in Oahu.



If Preschool Open Doors loses funding, it will negatively impact my family because... We won't be able to afford to send all of our children to school at once. But at the same time, as children they should not be deprived of an early education just because their parents can't afford it. Also, it defeats the purpose of DOE's "No child left behind Act." These children who are entering Kindergarten and did not attend preschool because "Open Doors" has lost its funding, have already been left behind.

Please submit your testimony one of the following ways:

- Return this form to your teacher or school, OR
- E-mail your testimony to [info@goodbeginnings.org](mailto:info@goodbeginnings.org)

**\*Mahalo for your KOKUA\***

made them learn so much, now they are able to keep up with children their age. They are so happy every morning getting up and getting ready for school seeing their smile on their faces... Priceless... I can really see the improvement in them since I had this opportunity to get this assistance and send them to preschool. They know their colors, shapes, all kinds of things they learned.

- I lose this assistance, I won't be able to afford the monthly payments to send them to preschool. I work I have income but no way near enough. I am forever grateful and thankful for this opportunity and assistance. I seen a lot of kids grow from this program. I ask please don't close the doors. Leave the doors open, we want to see young kids flourish.

**KEEP THE  
DOORS OPEN  
FOR OUR  
KEIKI!**



First Name:	Last Name:
Latoya <del>Bentosino</del>	Bentosino
Home Address: P.O. Box 2696	
City: Waikele	Zip Code: 96706
Phone: (808) 258-7238	E-mail: latoya.bentosino@yahoo.com

Preschool Open Doors is important to me because... ~~it~~  
 really benefits my family as well as  
 other families. Having this ~~off~~ financial  
 assistance has really helped me in getting  
 my boys the education they need being that  
 they were born 3 months early little behind  
 being able to send them to school has really  $\rightarrow$   
 If Preschool Open Doors loses it's funding, it will negatively  
 impact my family because... my boys will be  
 devastated, heartbroken, disappointed they  
 love going to school and being a  
 mother of 5 beautiful children if we  $\rightarrow$   
 Signed: Latoya Bentosino Date: 03-05-15

Please submit your testimony one of the following ways:

- Return this form to your teacher or school or
- E-mail your testimony to [info@goodbeginnings.org](mailto:info@goodbeginnings.org)

\* Mahalo for your kokua! \*

\*Nakoa & Noa Bentosino

**KEEP THE  
DOORS OPEN  
FOR OUR  
KEIKI!**



First Name:	Last Name:
Kumbeley	Letua
Home Address: 91-1092 Kailoolea Dr.	
City: Ewa Beach	Zip Code: 96706
Phone: 808-364-0759	E-mail: Kumbeley@yahoo.com

Preschool Open Doors is important to me because...

Without open doors, children like my niece wouldn't have opportunities to attend preschool. Families would have a hard time w/childcare in order to provide for their families. Also, the programs and learning activities promote wellness. If Preschool Open Doors loses it's funding, it will negatively impact my family because... The would have never had the ability to offer my niece proper education and supervision. Care activities offered in this setting.

Signed: *[Signature]* Date: 03-05-15

Please submit your testimony one of the following ways:

- Return this form to your teacher or school or
- E-mail your testimony to [info@goodbeginnings.org](mailto:info@goodbeginnings.org)

\* Mahalo for your kokua! \*

\*Kamila Santos

**KEEP THE  
DOORS OPEN  
FOR OUR  
KEIKI!**



First Name: Ethel Buono	Last Name: Buono
Home Address: 94-1027 Kahua mo Ku St. A	
City: Waipahu	Zip Code: 96797
Phone: 203-9267	E-mail:

Preschool Open Doors is important to me because...

It allows my son to attend preschool at an affordable cost. The program also catered to us because my son just missed the age limit for kindergarten. If Preschool Open Doors loses it's funding, it will negatively impact my family because... I won't be able to pay for preschool and my son may have to just stay home.

Signed: *[Signature]* Date: 03-05-15

Please submit your testimony one of the following ways:

- Return this form to your teacher or school or
- E-mail your testimony to [info@goodbeginnings.org](mailto:info@goodbeginnings.org)

\* Mahalo for your kokua! \*

\*Diamond I amav

**kobayashi2-Lynda**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, March 16, 2015 7:35 PM  
**To:** HUS testimony  
**Cc:** pahinuik001@hawaii.rr.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB64 on Mar 17, 2015 09:30AM

**LATE**

**Categories:** Orange Category

**SB64**

Submitted on: 3/16/2015

Testimony for HUS on Mar 17, 2015 09:30AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kathleen M. Pahinui	Waikiki Community Center	Support	No

Comments: Please support SB64 SD3 to restore \$6 million/year in biennial funding for the Preschool Open Doors program -- this represents level funding to match the current fiscal year budget. · Since it was established in 1990, Preschool Open Doors allows low-income children and families in Hawai'i to afford childcare so parents can go to work or pursue higher education. · Last year, 2,208 families applied for POD subsidies. · This program operated by Department of Human Services (DHS) currently serves 1,287 4- and 5- year olds statewide. Nearly half of the children served in this program come from single-parent households. · Without your support, \$6 million for this critical safety net program will end on June 30, 2015, which means thousands of children will not be prepared for Kindergarten when they start, including the children who will be almost six years old due to the Kindergarten entry age change. · Having Preschool Open Doors keep its doors open is critical to Hawai'i's most vulnerable children and families. · Please maintain the annual funding of \$6 million for DHS to keep running this program! Hawai'i's families need this program for our keiki.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov



**LATE**

Date: March 16, 2015

To: Dee Morikawa (Chair), Bert Kobayashi (Vice chair), House Human Services committee

Re: SB64, SD3 HUS, 3/17/2015, 9:30AM Room 329

From: Laura Brucia Hamm, Executive Director, PATCH

Aloha Dee Morikawa and Bert Kobayashi,

PATCH is a 501(c)(3), non-profit statewide organization that helps parents, kids and providers achieve connection to childcare and preschool needs. PATCH is honored to administer the Preschool Open Doors Program (POD) on behalf of Department of Human Services. Since 1976, our mission has been to attend to Hawaii's children through providing support services for parents/guardians in search of licensed childcare and preschool programs.

Since 2009, PATCH has successfully and effectively administered POD with its timely, thorough and supportive role for at-risk children and families. In addition, many of the POD families are non-English speaking and PATCH has made great strides in meeting the needs of our clientele through adapting our paperwork to providing multilingual assistance to align with such needs. Because of our efforts and efficiencies, PATCH and the POD program are held in high regard throughout the State, especially regarding the administration of the POD program.

In 2011, PATCH was identified by DOE and DHS as having a very effective and strong infrastructure through the administration of POD and thus PATCH was engaged in administering Race to the Top, a temporary federally funded initiative from 2011 through 2014. This initiative aided approximately 900 more children, giving them the opportunity to attend licensed preschools.

Preschool Open Doors has helped thousands of families in providing subsidies to help them afford early learning for their children. Preschool Open Doors targets low income families with a demonstrated average annual income of \$33,000 in the 2014/2015 school year. The program prioritizes homeless, special needs, ESL, and other at-risk children that otherwise may not get the opportunity to attend preschool. The average cost of preschool for participating POD families is \$8,052 annually. Preschool expenses to families is the second highest cost; the first being housing.



POD also allows highly mobile military families to benefit from its services while residing in one of the most costly states when it comes to early learning.

PATCH helps all families and specifically low-income families through our other programs. PATCH runs the USDA Food Program for Hawaii's child care homes which, in 2014 alone, provided over 700,000 meals. We know kids receiving POD assistance are also most likely eligible for the USDA Food Program which ensures children living in poverty are receiving 3 meals and 2 snacks per day.

Our intent in continuing to administer POD fits strongly with our mission, the niche of our other programs, and the dire need in the community. Having POD keep its doors open with PATCH's operational proficiency is critical to Hawaii's most vulnerable children and families.

We ask that you please maintain the annual funding of \$6million for DHS to keep running POD. Hawaii's families need this program for our keiki.

Sincerely,

Laura Brucia Hamm, *Executive Director*



96 Pu'uhonu Place  
Hilo, HI 96720  
(808) 935-4304  
(808) 969-7512  
www.ahapunanaleo.org

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Pūnana Leo Programs

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Preschool Program

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Pūnana Leo o Kailua-Lua

Pūnana Leo o Waipahoehoe

Pūnana Leo o Maunaloa

Pūnana Leo o Kailua

**Nūolalehi**

Hawaiian Language Online

**LATE**

Representative Dee Morikawa, Chair  
Representative Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair  
House Committee on Human Services

Date of Hearing: 3-17-2015

Time: 9:30am

Location: Conference Room 329

*Testimony of the 'Aha Pūnana Leo, Non-Profit Educational  
Organization  
Dedicated to the Revitalization of the Hawaiian Language*

Re: SB64, SD3 RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES: **STRONG SUPPORT**

Aloha Chair Morikawa, Vice Chair Kobayashi and Members of the Committee:

My name is 'Ekekela Aiona, Executive Director of the 'Aha Pūnana Leo. The  
'Aha Pūnana Leo  
is in **STRONG SUPPORT** of SB64, SD3.

Please support SB64, SD3, to restore \$6 million for the Preschool Open Doors  
(POD) program operated by the Hawai'i Department of Human Services to the  
State Budget. This program has been in existence since 1990 and has provided a  
valuable lifeline for hundreds of families every year throughout the state.

As a non-profit educational organization, the 'Aha Pūnana Leo is in constant  
search of funding streams to help our families and their keiki afford preschool.  
Tuition costs at the Pūnana Leo are kept at an absolute minimum in order to make  
payments affordable. In spite of this, many of our Pūnana Leo keiki would not be  
able to attend preschool if not for the POD program.

Please continue to support Hawai'i's families and keiki by passing SB64, SD3.  
Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in strong support of this extremely important  
measure.

Mahalo nui,

M. 'Ekekela Aiona  
Executive Director, 'Aha Pūnana Leo  
96 Pu'uhonu Place  
Hilo, HI 96720  
(808) 935-4304

E O I a K a ' Ō i e l o H a w a i ' i





**LATE**

## CHILDCARE BUSINESS COALITION

Committed to Quality Education

March 17, 2015

The Cole Academy

The Hawai'i Baptist  
Early Education  
Association

KCAA Preschools  
of Hawai'i

Kama'aina Kids

PACT  
Parents & Children  
Together

Rainbow Schools

Seagull Schools

Waiānae Coast Early  
Childhood Services

Waikiki Community  
Center

Liaison:  
Christina Cox  
2707 So. King St.  
Honolulu, HI  
96826  
(808) 941-9415  
ccox@kcaapreschools.org

To: Representative Dee Morikawa, Chair  
Representative Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair  
House Committee on Human Services

From: Christina Cox, Liaison, Childcare Business Coalition

Subject: SB 64 SD3 3/17/15 CR 239

**The Childcare Business Coalition is in strong support of SB 64 S.D.3.**

In existence since 1997, the Childcare Business Coalition's (CBC) mission is to promote quality center-based programs which are accessible to all families with young children ages six weeks to 6 years of age and to promote public policies which support that effort. We serve more than 5,000 children daily at more than 90 centers on four islands. The majority of our members' programs are nationally accredited and serve low/middle income families. Collectively we provide more than \$300,000 in tuition assistance to qualifying families every year to supplement the various statewide public and private subsidy programs which are unable to meet on-going demand. Many of us hold fundraisers and/or write grants to local trusts and foundations to support our in-house tuition aid programs. We presently serve more than 200 Preschool Open Doors children.

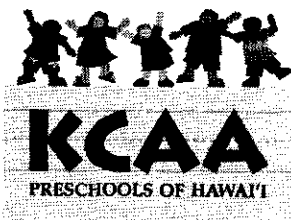
Research has repeatedly shown that children who participate in a quality school readiness program prior to entering kindergarten have greater success in school and in life.

Preschool Open Doors (POD) is a lifeline for many low and moderate income parents. Since the entry age for public school was changed last year another 5,000 children on average, require an additional year of preschool prior to entering kindergarten.

Prior to SFY 2014 POD served an average 315-320 children with a base budget of \$1.6 million. This year, thankfully the \$6 million expansion funds enabled the program to serve up to an additional 1,050 eligible children who are preparing to enter kindergarten the next Fall. It would be a tragedy to let an administrative oversight which apparently led to the unintentional omission of that additional \$6 million in funding, leave nearly 1,000 children who were adversely impacted by the change in kindergarten entry age, without that critical year of school readiness prior to kindergarten entry.

We respectfully request that your Committee approves SB 64SD 3 and that you fund POD at the \$6 million level for preschool subsidies as well as provide \$440,000 to fund 3 positions for program implementation.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



*For over 100 years,  
preparing children for success*

2707 South King Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96826

Phone: (808) 941-9414  
Fax: (808) 946-1468

[www.kcaapreschools.org](http://www.kcaapreschools.org)

**LATE**

March 16, 2015

To: Representative Dee Morikawa, Chair  
Representative Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair  
House Committee on Human Services

From: Christina Cox, M.S. Ed., President  
KCAA Preschools of Hawaii

Subject: Strong Support for SB 64 S.D. 3

KCAA Preschools of Hawaii was established in 1895 by the Woman's Board of Missions to serve the children of immigrant workers. We serve over 900 children per year in 7 NAEYC accredited preschools on Oahu. More than 50% of our students are low-income and over 80% go on to attend DOE elementary schools. We manage tuition subsidies from 7 different sources, including Preschool Open Doors (POD), each with its own set of requirements. We have an \$8 million annual operating budget with 130 employees.

We presently serve the following number of POD-subsidized children by area:

- Kailua-4
- Kalihi-13
- Moiliili-12
- Kakaako-10
- Kahala-5
- Hawaii Kai-1

Preschool Open Doors (POD) is a lifeline for many low and moderate income parents, enabling them to work or attend school while their child is in safe hands. Since the entry age for public school was changed last year another 5,000 children on average, require an additional year of preschool prior to entering kindergarten. Restoring the \$6 million in POD funding that was apparently unintentionally omitted from the Executive budget would help to ensure that at least 1,000 of those 5,000 children negatively impacted by the kindergarten entry age change would get the support they deserve to be prepared to enter kindergarten ready to succeed.

I respectfully request that your Committee approves SB 64SD 3 and that you fund POD at the \$6 million level for preschool subsidies as well as provide \$440,000 to fund 3 positions for program implementation.

Please note that while I also serve as Liaison for the Childcare Business Coalition of Hawaii which represents more than 90 centers throughout the State I am testifying in full support of this measure today as the President of KCAA Preschools of Hawaii, a position that I have held for the past 14 years.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

ATHERTON - KAILUA  
KUAPA - HAWAII KAI  
LAURA MORGAN - KAPALAMA HEIGHTS  
MOTHER RICE - MOILIILI  
MURIEL - KAKAAKO  
NALEI - KALIH  
WAI KAHALA - KAHALA

